

automotive rearview mirrors and electronics for the automotive industry. These mirrors use sensors to detect glare from trailing approaching vehicles and darken to protect the driver's vision. It also makes dimmable aircraft windows for the aviation industry. Sells to most of the major automakers (has 3 customers who each ac-

cial fire protection products. Has approximately 5,875 employees. Vanguard owns 9.9% of common stock; BlackRock, 9.7%; officers and directors, less than 1.0% (3/20 proxy). Pres. and CEO: Steve Downing. Inc.: MI. Address: 600 N. Centennial Street, Zeeland, MI 49464. Telephone: 616-772-1800. Internet: www.gentex.com.

Past Est'd '17-'19 **ANNUAL RATES** Past 10 Yrs. 12.5% 5 Yrs. 11.0% of change (per sh) to '23-'25 Sales "Cash Flow" 16.5% 18.0% 14.5% 14.5% 6.5% 7.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value 8.0% 10.0% 11.0% OHADTEDLY CALEC (6

195.1

850.9

92.8

76.4

169.2

950.3

171.8

97.6

859.3

60.2 75.0

82.4

217.6

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

Cal-	QUARTERLY SALES (\$ mill.)				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2017	453.5	443.2	438.6	459.6	1794.9
2018	465.4	455.0	460.3	453.4	1834.1
2019	468.6	468.7	477.8	443.8	1858.9
2020	453.8	229.9	450	466.3	1600
2021	460	470	470	480	1880
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A Full				
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2017	.33	.31	.31	.33	1.28
2018	.40	.40	.41	.41	1.62
2019	.40	.45	.44	.39	1.68
2020	.36	.02	.40	.42	1.20
2021	.40	.40	.45	.45	1.70
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	.085	.09	.09	.09	.355
2017	.09	.10	.10	.10	.39
2018	.11	.11	.11	.11	.44
2019	.11	.115	.115	.115	.455
2020	.115	.12	.12		

Gentex reported weak second-quarter results. Sales of \$230 million decreased more than 50% compared to the previousyear figure. The decline was largely due to a significant drop in light-vehicle production, which fell 69% and 62%, respectively, in North America and Europe. COVID-19 created extended shutdowns in the automotive industry for much of the period. All told, total auto-dimming mirror shipments in the June quarter plummeted 51%, to 5,260. Margins were pressured by the lower volumes, along with manufacturing inefficiencies caused by coronavirusrelated plant shutdowns. Annual customer price reductions, along with higher SG&A and R&D expenses, also pressured margins. This caused share earnings of \$0.02 to come in well below the previous-year tally of \$0.45.

However, we expect improving results in the second half of the year. Management believes total light-vehicle production will decline 7% in the second half of the year, to 34.5 million units, which would mark a significant improvement compared to the 45% drop in the most recent quarter. Japan and South Korea

ought to see a 15% drop, while North America may well only post a slight decline of roughly 1%. All told, management still believes full-year total lightvehicle production will decrease 20%, to around 60.5 million units. As a result, we are maintaining our 2020 top- and bottomline estimates of \$1.6 billion and \$1.20 per share, respectively.

We anticipate stronger results in 2021. Assuming mitigation efforts to combat COVID-19 are largely successful, we think Gentex will be able to return to a morenormal business environment. Demand for the company's core auto-dimming mirror units should rebound with the anticipated recovery in the light-vehicle market. Recent cost-reduction initiatives, along with ongoing share repurchases, should also provide a boost to the bottom line.

The Timeliness rank of Gentex shares has been raised by a notch, to 2 (Above Average). The stock, which has a dividend yield moderately below the Value Line median, offers about-average price appreciation potential over the 3- to 5-year haul.

Iason Dalavagas

September 11, 2020

(A) Diluted earnings. Quarterly earnings may not sum due to rounding. Next earnings report due in late October.

April, July, and October.
(C) In millions, adjusted for stock splits.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 85 Price Growth Persistence 50 **Earnings Predictability** 80